

060
comparison means for comparing the detailed payment statement with the seller sales record.

Sub P¹²
35. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of confirming document data, comprising:
creating a confirmation document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of vouchers sent periodically to the buyer by a seller over a specified period of time, the buyer making each confirmation document upon receipt of each seller record;
sending each confirmation document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmation document to a witness;
sending each confirmation document from the witness to the seller;
confirming contents of each confirmation document by the seller by comparing the contents of each confirmation document with the contents of a corresponding one of the vouchers;
certifying and registering each confirmation document by the witness when the witness receives confirmation of the contents of each confirmation document from the seller; and
storing each payment document.

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application and have been rejected. Claims 1, 7, 15, 17, 25-29, 34, and 35 have been amended herein. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Entry of Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response because it is believed that the amendment of claims 1, 7, 15, 17, 25-29, 34, and 35 puts this application into condition for allowance. The amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicants believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for

appeal may be entered.” Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that “the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.” The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In items 1-3 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons presented below.

Claim 1 of the present invention, as amended, specifies that a buyer generates a confirmation document upon receipt of each one of a plurality of records sent periodically from a seller to the buyer over a specified period of time, that the buyer sends each confirmation document to a witness that forwards the confirmation document to the seller, that the seller confirms that the contents of each seller record agrees with the contents of a corresponding confirmation document, and that the witness certifies the confirmation document as being accurate. Independent claims 7, 17, 25-29, 34, and 35 recite similar language. Independent claim 15 also recites similar language, except that claim 15 relates to set-off accounting when the buyer and seller conduct mutual trading (i.e., company A buys from company B and company B buys from company A).

The present invention relates to confirmation of a plurality of seller records that are issued periodically by the same seller over a specified period of time. Referring to Fig. 9 of the present application, the buyer prepares a series of confirmation documents such as X1, X2, etc. that summarize each business transaction between a seller and a buyer during a specific period. Each confirmation document includes data such as the vendor name, delivery date, description of delivered goods, etc. The buyer sends each confirmation document to a witness for confirmation of the data contained therein. The witness receives each confirmation document and forwards each confirmation document to the seller. If the seller determines that the data of each seller record sent to the buyer agree with the data of a corresponding confirmation document received by the seller, then the seller sends a confirmation response to

the witness. The witness then certifies the data by sending a witness confirmation response to both the buyer and the seller. The witness stores the confirmed data in a receipt detail table.

The relationship between the buyer and seller of Walker is based on a single transaction, such as the purchase of an airline ticket or the renting of a car. In contrast, the relationship between the buyer and seller in the present invention is based on a series of on-going transactions, such as multiple purchases of products by a grocery store from one supplier during a month.

Walker does not disclose periodically sending a seller record to a buyer over a specified period of time, creating a confirmation document for each seller record, and sending each confirmation document to the seller for confirmation of content. Thus, the Walker reference does not teach all the features of the present invention.

Therefore, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 7, 15, 17, 25-29, 34, and 35 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

As for the dependent claims, the dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-35 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under §102.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding rejections, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** the following claims:

1. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A witness system, comprising:

confirmation [payment] document making means for making a [payment] confirmation document [aggregating one or more buyer records, the payment document being based on one or more] by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent periodically from a seller[, and] to the buyer [records corresponding to the seller records] over a specified period of time, the buyer making each confirmation document upon receipt of each seller record;

a witness receiving [the payment] each confirmation document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmation document;

confirmation means for confirming by the seller that the content of each of the seller records is in agreement with the content of a corresponding one of the [payment document] confirmation documents sent to the seller from the witness, wherein said witness certifies and registers [the payment] each confirmation document as being accurate once said confirmation means confirms [the payment] each confirmation document; and

memory means for storing in memory the confirmation documents registered by said witness.

7. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An account settlement system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making a notarization [documents] document by a buyer for each [of] one of a plurality of [or more buyer records, the buyer records being based on one or more] seller records sent periodically from a seller to the buyer over a specified period of time, the buyer making each notarization document upon receipt of each seller record;

sending means for sending to a notarization authority [the] each notarization [documents] from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and for sending [the] each notarization [documents] document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirmation means for confirming by the seller whether the contents of [the] each seller [records are] record is in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notification documents;

a witness having the notarization authority and certifying that [the] each notification [documents are] document is accurate after the seller confirms that [the] each seller [records agree] record agrees with the corresponding notarization [documents] document;

memory means for storing in a memory the notarization documents certified by said witness;

detailed payment statement making means for making, with reference to the notarization documents stored in the memory, a detailed payment statement, upon which payment to the seller by the buyer is to be based;

funds transfer request means for requesting a transfer of funds, based on the detailed payment statement; and

notification means for notifying said witness of a transfer of funds, when funds are transferred to the seller based on the funds transfer request.

15. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making a notarization [documents] document by a seller for each [of] one of a plurality of [or more seller records, the seller records being based on one or more] buyer records sent periodically from a buyer to the seller over a specified period of time, the seller making each notarization document upon receipt of each buyer record;

sending means for sending to a notarization authority [the] each notarization [documents] from the seller after the seller makes each notarization document, and for sending [the] each notarization [documents] document from the notarization authority to the buyer;

confirmation means for confirming by the buyer whether the contents of [the] each buyer [records are] record is in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notification documents;

a witness having the notarization authority and certifying that [the] each notification [documents are] document is accurate after the buyer confirms that [the] each buyer [records agree] record agrees with the corresponding notarization [documents] document;

memory means for storing in a memory the notarization documents certified by said witness;

detailed payment statement making means for making, by said buyer, with reference to the notarization documents stored in the memory, a detailed payment statement upon which a set-off payment by the seller to the buyer is based; and

request means for requesting a financial institution to issue a check to the buyer, based on the detailed payment statement.

17. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making a notarization [documents] document by a buyer for each [of] one of a plurality of [or more buyer records, the buyer records being based on one or more] seller records sent periodically from a seller to the buyer over a specified period of time, the buyer making each notarization document upon receipt of each seller record;

sending means for sending to a notarization authority [the] each notarization [documents] from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and for sending [the] each notarization [documents] document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirmation means for confirming by the seller whether the contents of [the] each seller [records are] record is in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notification documents;

a witness having the notarization authority and certifying that [the] each notification [documents are] document is accurate after the seller confirms that [the] each seller [records agree] record agrees with the corresponding notarization [documents] document;

memory means for storing in a memory the notarization documents certified by said witness;

detailed payment statement making means for making, with reference to the notarization documents stored in the memory, a detailed payment statement, upon which payment to the seller by the buyer is to be based; and

request means for requesting a financial institution to issue a note to the buyer.

25. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A method for document confirmation by a witness system, comprising:

making a confirmatory [documents] document by a buyer for each [of] one of a plurality of [or more] seller records sent periodically from a seller to [a] the buyer over a specified period of time, the buyer making each confirmatory document upon receipt of each seller record;

sending to a witness [the] each confirmatory [documents] document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmatory document, and sending [the] each confirmatory [documents] document from the witness to the seller;

confirming by the seller whether the contents of [the] each seller [records] record are in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the confirmatory documents;

certifying, by the witness, that [the] each confirmatory [documents are] document is accurate, and notifying the buyer and the seller of [the] each certification; and
storing the certified documents in a memory.

26. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An account settlement method utilizing a witness system, comprising:

making a notarization [documents] document by a buyer for each [of] one of a plurality of [or more] seller records sent periodically from a seller to [a] the buyer;

sending to a notarization authority [the] each notarization [documents] document from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and sending each notarization document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirming by the seller whether the contents of [the] each seller [records] record are in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notarization documents;

notarizing, by a witness having the notarization authority, that [the documents are] each document is accurate and notifying the buyer and the seller of [the] each notarization, after the seller confirms that [the] each seller [records agree] record agrees with the corresponding notarization [documents] document;

storing in a memory the notarized documents;

making, with reference to the stored notarization documents, a detailed payment statement upon which is based payment by the buyer to the seller; and

requesting the transfer of funds to the seller, based on the detailed payment statement.

27. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable memory medium containing a program causing a computer to execute document confirmation processes performed by a witness system, and comprising a process of:

making[,] a confirmatory document by a buyer for each [of] one [or more] of a plurality of seller records sent periodically from a seller to [a] the buyer[, a confirmatory document] over a specified period of time, the buyer making each confirmatory document upon receipt of each seller record;

sending, to a witness, [the] each confirmatory document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmatory document, and sending [the] each confirmatory document from the witness to the seller;

confirming by the seller whether the contents of [the] each seller [records] record are in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the confirmatory [document] documents;

certifying by the witness that [the] each confirmatory document is accurate, and notifying the buyer and the seller of [the] each certification, after the seller confirms that [the] each seller [records agree] record agrees with the corresponding confirmatory document; and

storing in a memory [the] each certified document.

28. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable memory medium containing a program causing a computer to execute an account settlement process using a witness system, and comprising a process of:

making[,] a notarization document by a buyer for each [of] one [or more] of a plurality of seller records sent periodically from a seller to [a] the buyer[, a notarization document] over a specified period of time, the buyer making each notarization document upon receipt of each seller record;

sending, to a notarization authority, [the] each notarization document from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and sending [the] each notarization document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirming, by the seller, whether the contents of [the] each seller [records] record and the contents of a corresponding one of the notarization [document] documents are in agreement;

notarizing, by a witness having the notarization authority, that [the] each notarization document is accurate, and notifying the buyer and the seller of [the] each notarization, after the

seller confirms that [the] each seller [records agree] record agrees with the corresponding notarization document;

storing, in a memory, the notarized [document] documents;

making, with reference to the notarized [document] documents, a detailed payment statement upon which is based payment by the buyer to the seller; and

requesting that funds be transferred to the seller, based on the detailed payment statement.

29. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A witness system, comprising:

first computing means for making a document [data] upon receipt of each one of a plurality of records periodically received over a specified period of time;

second computing means for confirming the contents of [the] each document [data]; and

third computing means for performing notarization of [the] each confirmed document [data] and storing in a memory [the] each notarized document data.

34. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An account settlement system, comprising:

payment request means for making a detailed payment statement [of a] that aggregates a plurality of payment [object] objects and sending a payment request based on the detailed payment statement, each payment object being created upon receipt of a corresponding one of a plurality of seller sales records periodically received over a specified period of time; and

comparison means for comparing the detailed payment statement with [a] the seller sales record.

35. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of confirming document data, comprising:

creating a [payment] confirmation document by a buyer [based upon one or more] for each one of a plurality of vouchers sent periodically to the buyer by a seller over a specified period of time, the buyer making each confirmation document upon receipt of each seller record;

sending [the payment] each confirmation document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmation document to a witness;

sending [the payment] each confirmation document from the witness to the seller;

confirming contents of [the payment] each confirmation document by the seller by comparing the contents of [the payment] each confirmation document with the contents of [the] a corresponding one of the vouchers;

certifying and registering [the payment] each confirmation document by the witness when the witness receives confirmation of the contents of [the payment] each confirmation document from the seller; and

storing [the] each payment document.